

Appln No. 10/816,650
Amdt date September 12, 2005
Reply to Office action of July 15, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An enclosed litter box, comprising:
a chassis comprising two side walls, an end wall, and an end opening comprising an end edge;

a removable litter tray comprising a first position, a second position, comprising a first end, and a second end slidably coupled to the chassis such that the first end is closer to the end wall of the chassis than the second end when the litter tray is in the first position inside the chassis before sliding to a second position moves away from the end edge while the second end moves closer to the end edge when the litter tray is moved relative to the end opening;

a ~~manual rake~~ comprising a raking end having a plurality of tines and a handle end wherein the raking end is located within the removable litter tray with the raking end closer to the end wall of the chassis than the end opening of the chassis when the litter tray is in the first position; and

~~an enclosure mounted to the chassis for enclosing the removable litter tray and rake;~~ and wherein the second position is characterized by the first end of the litter tray and the raking end of the rake both spaced apart from the end wall of the chassis.

2. (Original) The enclosed litter box of claim 1, the removable litter tray further comprising an integral handle having a downwardly facing opening.

3. (Previously Presented) The enclosed litter box of claim 1, the enclosure further including a notched recess for engaging a hook portion of a scoop for scooping litter to form a gravity lock with the scoop.

4. (Currently Amended) The enclosed litter box of claim 34, wherein the scoop further includes a notched blade for engagement with a tined portion of the manual rake.

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5. (Original) The enclosed litter box of claim 2, the removable litter tray further comprising:

a transverse groove on an upper rim of a front portion of the removable litter tray;
and

an opening between a bottom surface of the groove and an interior portion of the integral handle whereby a user may dislodge a handle portion of the manual rake held in the transverse groove.

6. (Original) The enclosed litter box of claim 1, wherein the enclosure further comprises:

an outer surface; and

an adhesive label having a decorative motif on an outer surface is adhered to the outer surface of the enclosure.

7. (Original) The enclosed litter box of claim 6, wherein:
the enclosure outer surface further includes a decorative background; and
the adhesive label includes a transparent substrate whereby the decorative motif of the enclosure outer surface is visible through the adhesive label when the adhesive label is adhered to the enclosure.

8. (Currently amended) An enclosed litter box, comprising:
a chassis means for supporting the enclosed litter box comprising two side walls, an end opening, and an end wall defining a receiving cavity;

a slidably removable litter tray comprising a tray cavity means positioned within the chassis means for holding litter receiving cavity of the chassis; said slidably removable litter tray means slidably movable relative to the chassis means while maintaining physical contact, either directly or indirectly, to the chassis means during at least a portion of the movement comprising a groove defining a catch channel;

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a manual rake means comprising a raking end comprising a plurality of tines for raking litter and a handle end comprising a handle portion for handling being located positioned within the removable litter tray means for separating animal waste from the litter such that the plurality of tines are located within the tray cavity of the litter tray while the handle portion is engaged to the catch channel; and

an enclosure means coupled to the chassis means for enclosing the removable litter tray means and the rake means; and

wherein the raking end of the rake is positioned proximate the end wall of the chassis and the handle portion is positioned proximate the end opening of the chassis.

9. (Currently Amended) The enclosed litter box of claim 8, the removable litter tray means further comprising a integral handle means having a downwardly facing opening for use in pulling the removable litter tray means from the chassis means.

10. (Currently Amended) The enclosed litter box of claim 9, the removable litter tray means further comprising:

—— holding means for holding the manual rake means in a detachable manner; and
—— dislodging means for a user to manually dislodge the manual rake from the holding means without exposing the user to an interior portion of the removable litter tray means wherein the plurality of tines generally point in a first direction and the handle end generally points in a second direction and wherein the first direction is perpendicular to the second direction.

11. (Original) The enclosed litter box of claim 10, further comprising means for adhering a decorative label to an outer surface of the enclosure means.

12. (Currently Amended) The enclosed litter box of claim 8, the enclosure means further comprising a gravity lock means groove for removably attaching a scooper means to the enclosure means.

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13. (Currently Amended) The enclosed litter box of claim 12, wherein the scooper ~~means~~ further comprises a notched blade for engagement with a tined portion of the ~~manual rake means~~.

14. (Currently Amended) An enclosed litter box, comprising:
a chassis comprising a receiving cavity comprising two side walls and an end wall;
a removable litter tray comprising an end wall, a first tray position, and a second tray position positioned in the receiving cavity of the chassis and slidably coupled to the chassis;
~~an enclosure mounted to the chassis enclosing the removable litter tray;~~
~~wherein the first tray position comprises the litter tray end wall spaced apart from the chassis end wall by a first distance;~~
~~wherein the second tray position comprises moving the litter tray relative to the chassis such that the litter tray end wall is spaced apart from the chassis end wall by a second distance, which is greater than the first distance; and~~
~~wherein the enclosure and the chassis maintain contact during the second tray position;~~
a rake comprising a raking end for raking litter comprising at least two tines spaced apart from one another by a first gap and a handle end comprising a handle portion for handling being positioned in the litter tray;
a scooper comprising a scooper handle portion for handling and a scooping portion for scooping comprising at least two indentations defining at least two notches spaced apart from one another by second gap; wherein
the first gap and the second gap are generally equal to one another so that the at least two notches align with the at least two tines to enable the at least two indentations to contact the at least two tines to scrape the at least two tines with the scooper.

15. (Currently Amended) The enclosed litter box of claim 14, ~~further comprising a rake comprising a~~ wherein the handle portion is connected to two ends of the raking end.

16. (Previously Presented) The enclosed litter box of claim 14, further comprising a groove on an end of the litter tray.

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17. (Currently Amended) The enclosed litter box of claim 16, ~~further comprising a rake comprising a handle, said wherein the handle portion is coupled to the~~ a groove on the litter tray.

18. (Currently Amended) The enclosed litter box of claim 14, further comprising a handle on an end surface for slidably moving the litter tray.

19. (Currently Amended) The enclosed litter box of claim 14, ~~further comprising a scoop for scooping litter~~ further comprising a third tine and a fourth tine.

20. (Previously Presented) The enclosed litter box of claim 14, wherein the chassis comprises a base and the litter tray comprises a base; wherein the base of the litter tray abuts the base of the chassis.

21. (New) An enclosed litter box, comprising:
a chassis comprising two side walls, an end wall, and an end opening comprising an end edge;

a removable litter tray slidably coupled to the chassis and having a first position and a second position relative to the chassis;

a rake located, at least in part, within the removable litter tray for raking litter deposited in the litter tray;

an enclosure coupled to the chassis for enclosing the removable litter tray comprising a notch recess comprising two notch surfaces that are non-parallel to one another;

a scoop for scooping comprising a scooping end and a handle end comprising a hook portion; and

wherein the hook portion of the scoop is engaged to the notch recess on the enclosure such that the handle end is elevated above the scooping end.

22. (New) The enclosed litter box of claim 21, wherein the litter tray comprises two side walls, a front wall, a rear wall, and a base defining a tray cavity.

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23. (New) The enclosed litter box of claim 21, wherein the hook portion comprises an extension comprising two edges that are non-parallel to one another to engage with the notch recess on the enclosure.